(c) whether any countries have shown interest in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) The possibility of securing the support of NRIs in the Gulf region for the bonds being raised by Indian Railway Finance Corporation for the Konkan Railway project has been explored.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Meetings with representative group of NRIs were held and the response from the NRIs was encouraging.

Rail link to Sikkim

1407. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the statement of the North-East Frontier Railway General Manager, which appeared in the Economic Times ©f the 20th June, 1992 to the effect that rail link to Sikkim is feasible; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to expedite action in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Construction of Railway line in difficult train would require huge investments. In view of acute constraint of resources, it is not possible to consider taking up this line at present.

गुजरात में नई रेल लाइनों का बिछाया जाना

1408. श्री राम सिंह राठवा : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या गुजरात सरकार ने राज्य में नई लाइनें बिछाये जाने के लिए कोई प्रस्ताव भेजे हैं ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसका ब्यौरा क्या है और इस संबंध में क्या कार्रवाई की गई है ; और

(ग) राज्य में बिछाई जा रही नई रेल लाइनों का ब्यौरा क्या है ?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मल्लिकार्जुन) : (क) जी हां ;

(ख) और (ग) गुजरात सरकार ने निम्नलिखित नई रेलवे लाइनों के निर्माण की मांग की है :—

(i) कपड़वंज मोडासा

(ii) गोधरा-दाहोद-इन्दौर

(iii) बडोदरा-इन्दौर (बरास्ता छोटा उदयपुर)

(iv) भावनगर-तारापुर

रेल बजट में निम्नलिखित नई लाइनें शामिल की गई है :—

(i) कपड़वंज-मोडासा (60.50 कि० मी०)

(ii) गोधरा-इन्दौर बरास्ता दाहोद, सरदारपुर, देवास और भकसी के के बीच धार (316 कि० मी०— जिसमें से 81 कि० मी० गुजरात में है) ।

Removal of fish plates from Railway Tracks

1409. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Indian Express dated 25th June, 1992 under the caption "Rly track fish plates found removed";

(b) whether any clients have been made to detect the culprits involved in the incident and if so, the results achieved so far;

(c) whether it is a fact that similar incidents were reported to have occured earlier along the tracks between Hindon bridge and Ghaziabad Railways Station; and

(d) if so, what effects are being made to prevent recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Efforts to apprehend the culprits continue, but no culprit has been arrested so far.

(c) 3 similar incidents were reported to have occurred earlier during the year 1992 between Hindon Bridge and Ghaziabad Railway Station.

(d) Track patrolling by RPF is being done between Hindon Bridge and Ghaziabad Railway Station, Crime intelligence is being collected to apprehend the criminals and liaison is being maintained with Civil Police and Distt. authorities

Rail Line in Vidarbha Region of Maharashtra

1410. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the status of the proposal relating to new Narkhed-Amrawati Board-Gauge Railway line in the Vida rbha Region of Maharashtra;

(b) whether any budgetary allocation has been made for the purpose and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the above line is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) New line projects can be taken up by the Railways only after prior approval of Planning Commission. The proposal for construction of a new line from Narkhed-Amra-wati was sent to the Planning Commission. They have not approved the same.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Own your wagon' scheme in the Railways

1411. SHRIMATI KAMLA STNHA:, Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have announced the 'Wwn your wagon' scheme as a first step to privatisation in the Railways;

(b) if so, what is the total additional number of wagons under the scheme and the major users under the scheme; and

(c) what are the details of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) "Own your wagon" scheme envisages private participation in procurement and ownership of wagons to meet the prowing demand for rail transport.

(b) and (c) The main features and terms and conditions of "Own your wagon" scheme are under active consideration. The additional number of wagons and the major users under this scheme will depend on the response to the scheme from major railusers.

शाहगंज मऊ मीटर लाइन को बड़ी लाइन में बदलने का कार्य

1412. श्री राम मरेश यादव : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) शाहगंज-मऊ मीटर लाइन को बड़ी लाइन में बदलने का कार्य कब तक आरंभ किया जाएगा और यह कार्य कब तक पूरा हो जाएगा ; और